

cleavage in a primer-independent reaction, albeit inefficiently. Fully paired oligonucleotides do not elicit cleavage of DNA templates during primer extension.

The ability of DNAP<sub>Taq</sub> to cleave molecules even when the complementary strand contains only one unpaired 3' nucleotide may be useful in optimizing allele-specific PCR. PCR primers that have unpaired 3' ends could act as pilot oligonucleotides to direct selective cleavage of unwanted templates during preincubation of potential template-primer complexes with DNAP<sub>Taq</sub> in the absence of nucleoside triphosphates.

#### B. 5' Nuclease Activities Of Other DNAPs

To determine whether other 5' nucleases in other DNAPs would be suitable for the present invention, an array of enzymes, several of which were reported in the literature to be free of apparent 5' nuclease activity, were examined. The ability of these other enzymes to cleave nucleic acids in a structure-specific manner was tested using the hairpin substrate shown in Fig. 6 under conditions reported to be optimal for synthesis by each enzyme.

DNAPEcl and DNAP Klenow were obtained from Promega Corporation; the DNAP of *Pyrococcus furiosus* ["Pfu", Bargseid *et al.*, Strategies 4:34 (1991)] was from Strategene; the DNAP of *Thermococcus litoralis* ["Tli", Vent™(exo-), Perler *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:5577 (1992)] was from New England Biolabs; the DNAP of *Thermus flavus* ["Tfl", Kaledin *et al.*, Biokhimiya 46:1576 (1981)] was from Epicentre Technologies; and the DNAP of *Thermus thermophilus* ["Tth", Carballeira *et al.*, Biotechniques 9:276 (1990); Myers *et al.*, Biochem. 30:7661 (1991)] was from U.S. Biochemicals.

0.5 units of each DNA polymerase was assayed in a 20 µl reaction, using either the buffers supplied by the manufacturers for the primer-dependent reactions, or 10 mM Tris•Cl, pH 8.5, 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 20mM KCl. Reaction mixtures were held 72°C before the addition of enzyme.

Fig. 11 is an autoradiogram recording the results of these tests. Fig. 11A demonstrates reactions of endonucleases of DNAPs of several thermophilic bacteria. The reactions were incubated at 55°C for 10 minutes in the presence of primer or at 72°C for 30 minutes in the absence of primer, and the products were resolved by denaturing polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. The lengths of the products, in nucleotides, are indicated. Fig. 11B demonstrates endonucleolytic cleavage by the 5' nuclease of DNAPEcl. The DNAPEcl and DNAP Klenow reactions were incubated for 5 minutes at 37°C. Note the light band of cleavage products of 25 and 11 nucleotides in the DNAPEcl lanes (made in the presence and absence of primer, respectively). Fig. 7B also demonstrates DNAP<sub>Taq</sub> reactions in the presence (+) or absence (-) of primer. These reactions were run in 50 mM and 20 mM KCl, respectively, and were incubated at 55°C for 10 minutes.

Referring to Fig. 11A, DNAPs from the eubacteria *Thermus thermophilus* and *Thermus flavus* cleave the substrate at the same place as DNAP<sub>Taq</sub>, both in the presence and absence of primer. In contrast, DNAPs from the archaeabacteria *Pyrococcus furiosus* and *Thermococcus litoralis* are unable to cleave the substrates endonucleolytically. The DNAPs from *Pyrococcus furiosus* and *Thermococcus litoralis* share little sequence homology with eubacterial enzymes (Ito *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 19:4045 (1991); Mathur *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids. Res.* 19:6952 (1991); see also Perler *et al.*). Referring to Fig. 11B, DNAPEcl also cleaves the substrate, but the resulting cleavage products are difficult to detect unless the 3' exonuclease is inhibited. The amino acid sequences of the 5' nuclease domains of DNAPEcl and DNAP<sub>Taq</sub> are about 38% homologous (Gelfand, *supra*).

The 5' nuclease domain of DNAP<sub>Taq</sub> also shares about 19% homology with the 5' exonuclease encoded by gene 6 of bacteriophage T7 [Dunn *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 166:477 (1983)]. This nuclease, which is not covalently attached to a DNAP polymerization domain, is also able to cleave DNA endonucleolytically, at a site similar or identical to the site that is cut by the 5' nucleases described above, in the absence of added primers.

### C. Transcleavage

The ability of a 5' nuclease to be directed to cleave efficiently at any specific sequence was demonstrated in the following experiment. A partially complementary oligonucleotide termed a "pilot oligonucleotide" was hybridized to sequences at the desired point of cleavage. The non-complementary part of the pilot oligonucleotide provided a structure analogous to the 3' arm of the template (see Fig. 6), whereas the 5' region of the substrate strand became the 5' arm. A primer was provided by designing the 3' region of the pilot so that it would fold on itself creating a short hairpin with a stabilizing tetra-loop [Antao *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 19:5901 (1991)].

Two pilot oligonucleotides are shown in Fig. 12A. Oligonucleotides 19-12 (SEQ ID NO:18), 30-12 (SEQ ID NO:19) and 30-0 (SEQ ID NO:20) are 31, 42 or 30 nucleotides long, respectively. However, oligonucleotides 19-12 (SEQ ID NO:18) and 34-19 (SEQ ID NO:19) have only 19 and 30 nucleotides, respectively, that are complementary to different sequences in the substrate strand. The pilot oligonucleotides are calculated to melt off their complements at about 50°C (19-12) and about 75°C (30-12). Both pilots have 12 nucleotides at their 3' ends, which act as 3' arms with base-paired primers attached.

To demonstrate that cleavage could be directed by a pilot oligonucleotide, we incubated a single-stranded target DNA with DNAP<sub>Taq</sub> in the presence of two potential pilot oligonucleotides. The transcleavage reactions, where the target and pilot nucleic acids are not covalently linked, includes 0.01 pmoles of single end-labeled substrate DNA, 1 unit of DNAP<sub>Taq</sub> and 5 pmoles of pilot oligonucleotide in a volume of 20 µl of the same buffers. These components were combined during a one minute incubation at 95°C, to denature the PCR-generated double-stranded substrate DNA, and the temperatures of the reactions were then reduced to their final incubation temperatures. Oligonucleotides 30-12 and 19-12 can hybridize to regions of the substrate DNAs that are 85 and 27 nucleotides from the 5' end of the targeted strand.

Figure 21 shows the complete 206-mer sequence (SEQ ID NO:32). The 206-mer was generated by PCR . The M13/pUC 24-mer reverse sequencing (-48) primer and the M13/pUC sequencing (-47) primer from New England Biolabs (catalogue nos.